

Portsmouth School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at Town Hall

Public Session Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mrs. Perrotti, at 6:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair; Marilyn King, Clerk; David Croston; Thomas Vadney; and Sylvia Wedge

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Mark Dunham, Director of Finance and Administration; Patti Cofield, Administrative Assistant; Joseph Quinn, Little Compton School Committee Liaison; Hayley McClintock, PHS Student Liaison

ABSENT: Angela Volpicelli

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 7:20 PM.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

• John Wojichowski reported that work has been completed successfully on the PHS baseball field, and dramatic improvements to the drainage have been made.

• Kathy Melvin expressed her concern about the evaluation process and the filling of positions. She doesn't want music and art programs to be affected. Ms. Melvin suggested sending the 4th graders back to the elementary schools. She expressed her concern about the honor roll policy and thinks there has to be a better way to award the children who struggle in school from handicaps instead of grouping all the students into one.

3. RECOGNITION AGENDA

- PHS Band – 1st Place at the USSBA New England States Championships.
- PHS Student Award – Student POWER Award. (Andrew Collins)
- PMS Girls' Soccer Team – 2011 RISCOA Eastern Division & State Champions.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Perrotti announced that an Executive Session was held, and two votes were taken. One was on a litigation matter and was approved 6-0. The second was to unseal the minutes of the last Executive Session and was approved 6-0. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Perrotti shared that any pursuit of the seniority case with the Superior and/or Supreme Court was subject to an expense cap with legal counsel. She also shared some key elements of the Open Meetings Act relative to email communication.

Mrs. Perrotti indicated that the Superintendent's 100-day analysis of the district would be discussed at an upcoming Executive Session. She stated that she has concerns about the Open Meetings act, and discussions of a public body shall only be permitted to schedule a meeting. She cautioned the School Committee about hitting "reply all" when responding to an email or when sending an email out to all of the members.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

A. Report from PHS Liaison. Student Representative Hayley McClintock reported that the recent PowderPuff football game was a successful event; a food drive was currently being conducted to assist families in need; and a Santa's Workshop for younger students was scheduled for the upcoming weekend.

B. Report on November Financials. Mr. Dunham reported on the

November Financials, indicating that all revenue was received as projected, and there are no indications of any budget shortfalls. The expenditure line has a year‐end projection of \$166,000, which may or may not be affected by events such as adverse weather conditions, student place-ments, financial climate, and the outstanding unsettled labor agreement.

C. Overview of Proposed New Courses at PHS. Mr. Littlefield reviewed the three new course proposals for PHS for the 2012‐13 school year. They were as follows: Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science; Advanced Placement (AP) European History; and Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory.

D. Overview of Early Intervention Program for Eligible Kindergarten Students. Laurel Oliveira presented an overview of the proposed Early Intervention Service (EIS) program for eligible kinder-garten students. The EIS program would provide four half‐days of targeted instruction to approximately 24 students in addition to their enrollment in the half‐day kindergarten program.

6. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made to by Mr. Harris to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 15, 2011, and November 18, 2011. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0. Ms. Wedge abstained from voting on the November 15, 2011, minutes due to her absence from

that meeting.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel.

1. Appt. – Senior Technology Support Specialist. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #1-12/13/11, to the position of Senior Technology Support Specialist, effective December 14, 2011.”

2. Appt. – Technology Support Specialist. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #2-12/13/11, to the position of Technology Support Specialist, effective December 14, 2011.”

3. Literacy Coach Resignation. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Lisa Phaneuf, Literacy Coach, effective January 3, 2012.”

4. Request for Leave of Absence. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the request for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the

backup information.”

5. Ratification of Director of Finance and Administration’s Contract.
The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee ratifies the contract of the Director of Finance and Administration as presented.”

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Krizic announced the following appointments:

- 1. Jacob Caron – Senior Technology Support Specialist**
- 2. Kimberly Reyell – Technology Support Specialist**

8. BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Approve the Early Intervention Program for Eligible Kindergarten Students (Using Grant Funds). A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Early Intervention Program for eligible kindergarten students for FY12, using available grant funds. So voted 6-0.

B. Agenda Item Request – Approval of PYB and CAL In-kind Donations. Requested by Jeff Swider and Keith Kelley. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the PYB and CAL in-kind donations. So voted 6-0.

C. Appt. – Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-12/13/11, to the position of Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment, effective January 25, 2012. Mr. Croston made a motion to table the appointment until the first meeting in January. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 4-2. Mrs. Perrotti and Mr. Harris were opposed.

D. Charter Presentation for IT Subcommittee. Mr. Croston read a charter he created for the formation of the Technology Subcommittee. He stated that this subcommittee would be complimentary to the existing IT Committee that is made up of teachers and outside representatives. Dr. Krizic suggested adding the Director of Instruction and Assessment to the subcommittee. Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the Technology Subcommittee Charter with the addition of Little Compton families to the community at large members. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 6-0.

E. Approval of Three New High School Courses. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve three new high school courses. So voted 6-0. The courses are AP Environmental Science, AP European History, and AP Music Theory.

F. Approval of Elimination of Four High School Courses. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve

the elimination of four high school courses. So voted 6-0. The courses to be eliminated are Conceptual Physics, PC Repair, English Honors 12, and Contemporary Singing Techniques.

G. Approve First Reading of Identified Policies in Section 5000.

- 1. 5131.1 Students - Use of Drugs and Alcohol**
- 2. 5131.2 Students - Smoking on School Grounds**
- 3. 5132 Students - Dress Code**
- 4. 5134 Students - Student Solicitation at School Events**
- 5. 5135 Students - Student Fundraising Activities**
- 6. 5310 Students - Parking**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the first reading of the identified policies. So voted 6-0.

H. Approve First Reading and Adoption of Policy 6111 School Calendar (waive second reading). A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the first reading and adoption of Policy 6111 School Calendar. So voted 6-0.

I. Approval of 2012-13 School Calendar (Option B). A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the 2012-13 School Calendar as presented. So voted 6-0.

J. Approval of October 2011 Financials. A motion was made by Mr.

Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the October 2011 financial reports as presented. So voted 6-0.

K. Bid Award – Interior and Exterior Doors at PHS. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to award the contract for doors at Portsmouth High School as presented. So voted 6-0. The bid was awarded to New England School Services.

L. Bid Award – Hot Water Boiler for Melville School. This item was withdrawn.

M. Discussion/Action – Increase Appropriation to Share Cost of Actuary/Pension Firm with Town – Not to Exceed \$1,000. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve an increase not-to-exceed \$1,000 in the appropriation to share the cost of the actuary/pension firm with the Town. So voted 6-0.

N. Agenda Item Request – Motion to Change Back to Two Monthly School Committee Meetings. Requested by David Croston. A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to change back to two monthly School Committee meetings. So voted 4-2. Mrs. Perrotti and Mr. Harris were opposed.

O. Agenda Item Request – Discussion/Action re eGovernance Software and Equipment Needs. Requested by David Croston. Mr. Croston asked questions regarding the eGov-ernance software and

equipment needs. Dr. Krizic explained that switching to electronic meetings will make information more readily available to the School Committee and public. Meeting information may be archived for as long as we choose, and there is a search feature. Dr. Krizic stated that the School Department had no intention of purchasing laptops for the School Committee members to take home. They will use laptops at the PHS Library. The School Department purchased an overhead LCD projector and screen for the PHS library; however, those items should have been in the library to begin with. Dr. Krizic stated that the goal is to start using the eGovernance software and equipment at the January 24th meeting. Patti Cofield will train the School Committee members on how to navigate the software during the first two weeks of January.

P. Agenda Item Request – Motion to have a School Committee Workshop in January to Review Any Proposed Changes to High School Programming. Requested by David Croston. A motion to have a School Committee workshop on January 10th to review any proposed changes to the high school programming was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King. Mr. Croston stated that he wants to discuss where we are going as a school district. Mr. Harris suggested having this as an agenda item on the second meeting in January. After much discussion, Mr. Croston withdrew his motion. Mrs. Perrotti would like to hear about high school programming at the January 10th meeting.

Q. Agenda Item Request – Attorney Contact Protocol. Requested by Cynthia Perrotti. Mrs. Perrotti stated that she wants the Policy Subcommittee to put a policy together on how the School Committee can request advice from legal counsel. She stated that other school committees have policies about how to channel legal inquiries, etc; and Attorney Robinson sent her samples from three different districts. In an effort to limit the attorney bills, the committee should have a procedure in place about not having multiple calls going to the attorney’s office. Mr. Croston feels that committee members should have the right to contact the attorney for matters they deem important. Mrs. Perrotti suggested developing a means that if one member receives legal advice, that it is shared with all members. Mr. Harris agrees. The committee agreed to have the Policy Subcommittee create a policy.

9. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

A. Alternative Revenue. No report.

B. Facilities. Mr. Croston reported that the subcommittee authorized the Superintendent to craft and publish an RFP for a professional education facilities firm to conduct a Stage 2 Feasibility Study focused on the immediate health and safety needs of the District, inclusive of general and fire safety code compliance. The subcommittee also discussed resurfacing the 4th and 5th grade recess space because the parking lot drains into that space. The

subcommittee would like the Facilities Supervisor and DPW Director to assess it.

C. Finance. Mr. Harris stated that the Finance Subcommittee meetings will start in January.

D. Health and Wellness. No report.

E. Healthcare Commission. No report.

F. Negotiations. Mr. Harris reported that the first mediation session with Council 94 will be held on 12/21.

G. Policy. Mrs. King reported that she and the Superintendent have been working on additional policies and have 10 more to present to the Policy Subcommittee at the next subcommittee meeting (date tbd).

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk